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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. Claims 1-40 have been objected to. Claims 31, 34 and 35 have been rejected. Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 12-21, 23, 25-30, 32, 33, 36, 37, 39 and 40 have been amended.

Claims 31, 34 and 35 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims, specification and drawings add no new matter.

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Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 1-30 and 36-40 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections in the Office Action, and that claims 32 and 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim.

Accordingly, Applicants amended claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 12-21, 23, 25-30, 32, 33, 36, 37, 39 and 40. Applicants respectfully assert that these amendments do not narrow the scope of claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 12-21, 23, 25-30, 32, 33, 36, 37, 39 and 40.

Remarks to the Drawings

Figs. 1 and 2 have been amended to match the specification. The drawing sheets containing each corrected drawing are enclosed for review by the Examiner.

Remarks to the Specification

The amendments to the specification are editorial in nature and do not introduce new matter.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 1, 4, 5, 10, 12-21, 23, 25-30, 32, 36, 37, 39 and 40 because of alleged informalities. Claim 1, 4, 5, 10, 12-21, 23, 25-30, 32,

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36, 37, 39 and 40 have been amended in order to cure these informalities. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 31, 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Agazzi et al. (U.S. 6,201,796). Claims 31, 34 and 35 have been cancelled without prejudice, and accordingly the Examiner's rejection of these claims is moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

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Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 05-0649.

Respectfully submitted,


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APPENDIX

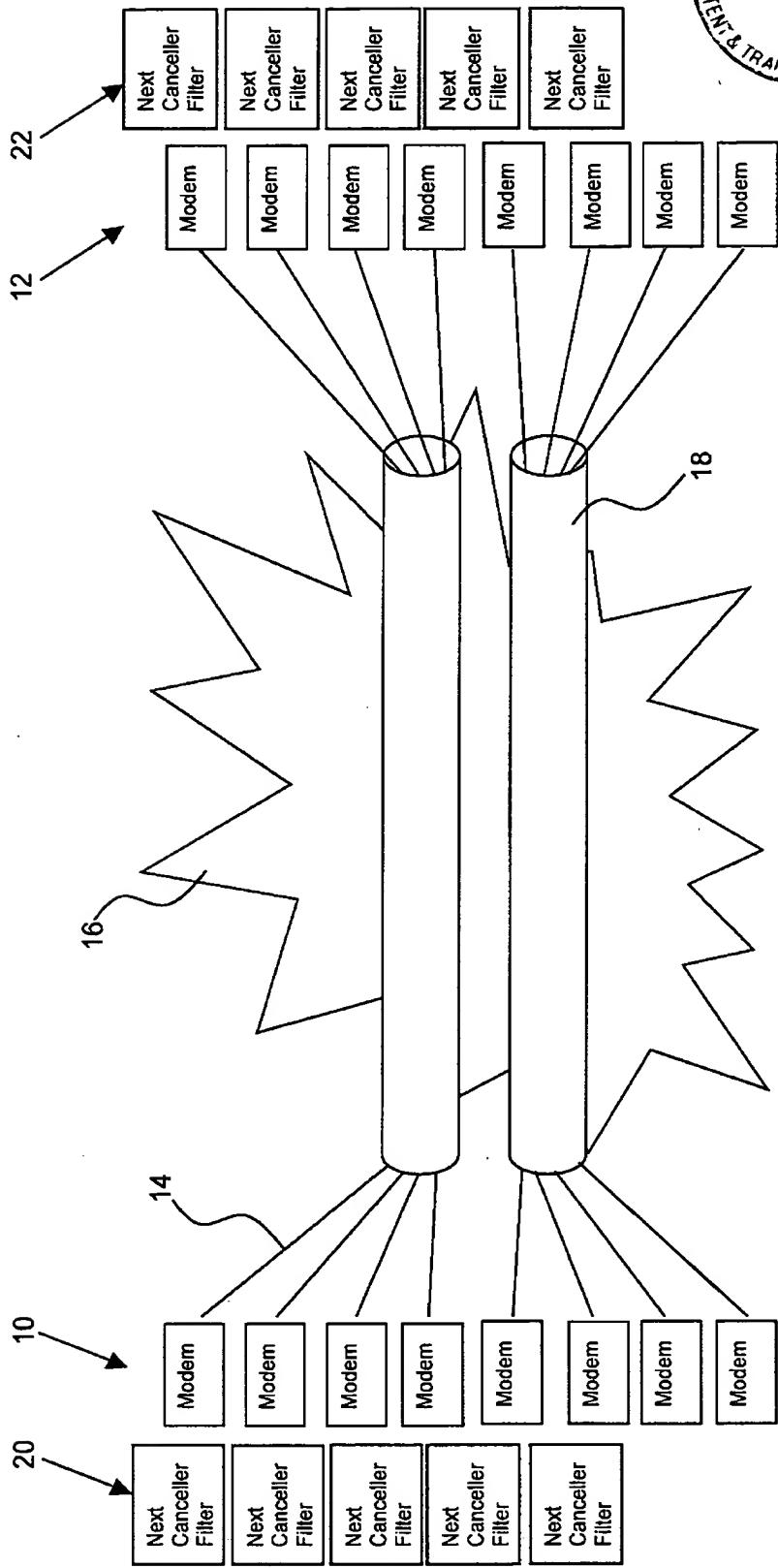


Fig. 1



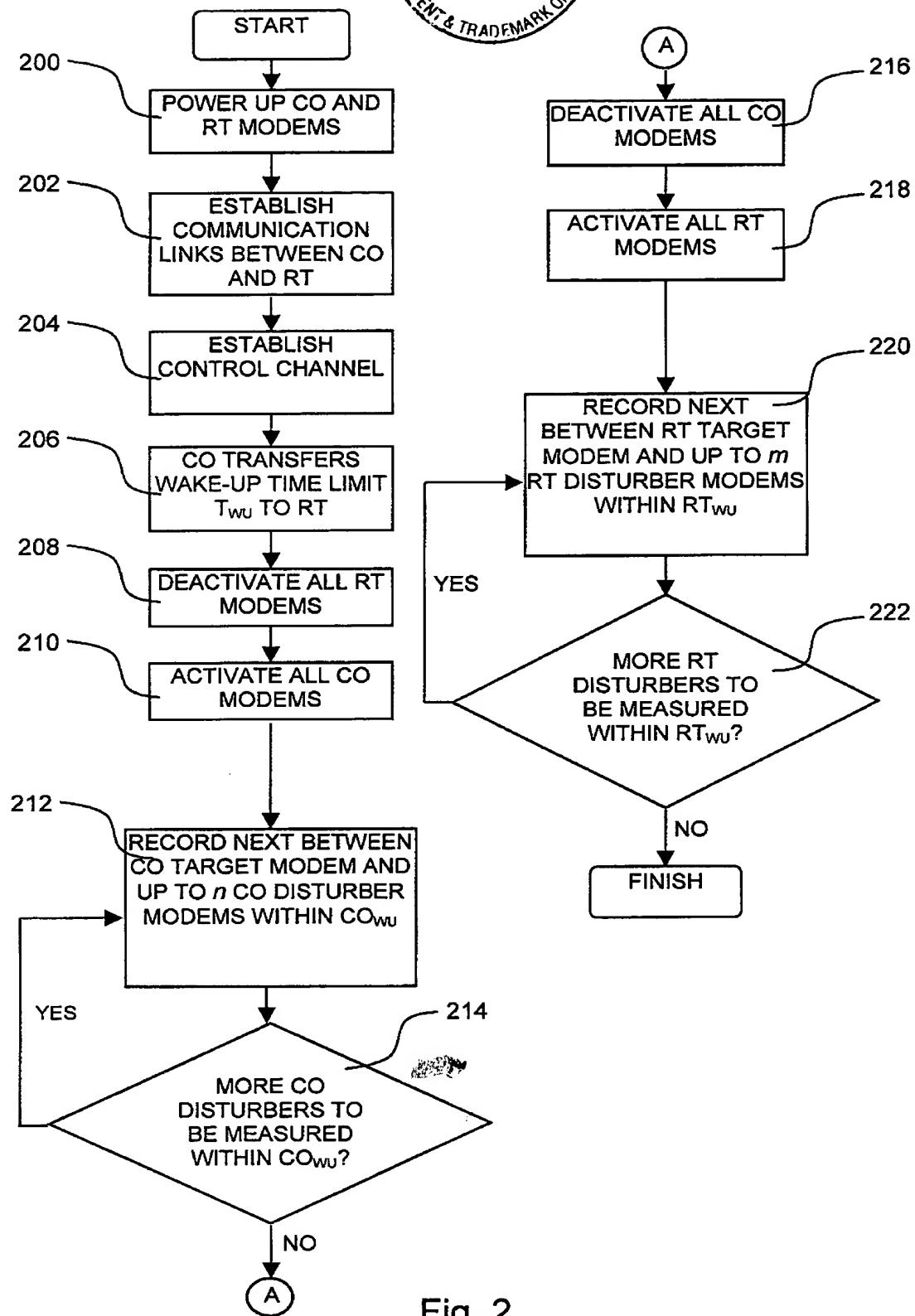


Fig. 2